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ABSTRACT

Using data collected between 1971 and 1979, a study was conducted at Oakton Community College (OCC) that assessed the information that was known about OCC graduates and non-graduates who continued their education. Selected findings indicate that 436 students who graduated between 1971 and 1979 could be identified as having gone on to other institutions; an additional 53 students who did not graduate from OCC were identified who also continued their education. Of the continuing graduates, 36.4% had received an Associate of Science degree, 24.7% had received certificates, and 24.6% had received an Associate of Arts degree. While 65.4% of the graduates had majored in liberal arts and sciences, 34.5% had majored in one of 19 occupational areas. A majority of the graduates (87.4%) went on to public colleges and universities within the state, and almost half (45.7%) enrolled in institutions to which they could commute. Of the graduate group, 32 had received a Bachelor's degree, 3 had earned an advanced degree, and 19 were still enrolled in 1980. With regard to the non-graduate group, 51% had received their Bachelor's degree, and 9.4% had earned an associate degree. Another 39.6% were currently enrolled in institutions of higher education. Several data tables are provided. (JP)

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OCC GRADUATES WHO WENT ON: A PROGRESS REPORT

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OCC GRADUATES WHO WENT ON:
A PROGRESS REPORT

By March 1, 1980 IRE had identified 436 OCC graduates who continued their education and 53 OCC non-graduates who continued their education. Our tally of credentials awarded by OCC extends from 1971 through summer 1979. It includes:

Figure 1

OCC Credentials Awarded
Through Summer 1979

Type	Awarded #	Identified #	Identified %
A.A.	1337	329	24.6
A.S.	11	4	36.4
A.A.S.	807	88	10.9
Diplomas	31	1	3.2
Certificates	566	14	24.7
TOTAL	2752	436	15.8

*(One grad received 2 credentials.)

We have thus determined that at least 15.8% of OCC's graduates continue their education. An earlier report mentioned that this is an underestimate. IRE guesses that we failed to find as many continuing students among the graduates as we actually found. Our process is manual, laborious, and time consuming, nevertheless, its results are important.

Within the limitations mentioned, let's look at which graduates tend to seek more education.

Figure 1 shows us that among the identified graduates who continue their education after OCC, the highest percentage (36.4%) received the new OCC degree of A.S. which was first awarded in spring 1978. Almost identical percents of A.A. recipients (24.6%) and certificate recipients (24.7%) continued their education, but the number of identified graduates going on is small for the certificate and A.S. groups. We would have expected more A.A. graduates to continue, and perhaps as more graduates are identified at 4 year schools most will be members of this group.

We will digress now for a moment to look at the 53 non-graduates on whom educational data after leaving OCC became available. The progress of this small group is interesting.

Figure 2

Educational Progress of OCC Non-Graduates

Credential Earned	Non-Graduates #	%
Associate Degree (AA)	5	9.4
Bachelor's Degree		
BA	2	3.8
BS	24	45.3
BGS	1	1.9
Currently in school	21	39.6
Total	53	100.0

Half (N = 27, 51%) of the OCC non-graduates whom we had information about had completed bachelor's degrees. Most of those degrees were bachelor of science degrees leading us to wonder whether science or technology was the content involved. Another 2/5 of this group (N = 21, 39.6%) were currently enrolled in institutions of higher education, while the remaining

OCC non-graduates had achieved their A.A. degrees (N = 5, 9.4%). This is an impressive record, and again doubtless an underestimate.

Among the OCC graduates, who went on to colleges and universities, we have information about 32 who have received their bachelors' degrees (7.6% of our A.A. + A.S. + A.A.S. group shown in Figure 1). Of these three (3) have received advanced degrees: an M.A., an M.P.A., and a J.D. Our records indicate that an additional 19 (4.6%) of the OCC graduates are now seniors. Many institutions do not furnish this information with the student's name, so individual progress tracking is almost impossible.

What did the OCC graduates study at OCC? As expected, the majority (N = 286, 65.4%) of this graduate group were in liberal arts and sciences majoring in curricula which they planned to transfer to a 4 year school. What is interesting is that 1/3 (N = 151, 34.5%) of the group, graduates of OCC occupational programs also continued to study. This outcome is rarely predicted by experts in the community college. Figure 3 presents the OCC majors of the graduates who went on. Please refer to page 4 for Figure 3.

Figure 3

OCC Major of Graduates Who
Continued Their College Education

Major	Graduates #	%
Liberal Arts	286	65.4
Business	39	8.9
Child Care Services	19	4.3
Law Enforcement	18	4.1
Pre-Engineering	11	2.5
Architectural Technology	10	2.3
Data Processing	10	2.3
Practical Nursing	6	1.4
Medical Lab Technician	5	1.1
Medical Record Technician	4	.9
Radiologic Technology	4	.9
Physical Therapist Assistant	4	.9
Fire Science Technology	3	.7
Accounting	3	.7
Industrial Management and Supervision	3	.7
Marketing Management	3	.7
Secretarial Science (Office Services Technology)	3	.7
Electronics Technology	2	.5
Hotel/Motel Management	2	.5
Transportation/Traffic Management	2	.5
Total	437	100.0

The figure has presented the OCC majors of graduates in descending order. First, we find almost 2/3 (N = 286, 65.4%) of the graduates majored in liberal arts and sciences and continued their education beyond OCC. The next group, a group of occupational programs, included: Business, Child Care Services, Law Enforcement, Pre-Engineering, Architectural Technology, and Data Processing. Each of these programs accounted for 10 or more OCC graduates who went on. Taken together, graduates of these programs were almost 1/4 of the graduates under consideration (N = 107, 24.9%). The remaining 1/5 of the graduates identified had majored in 13 occupational curricula. These 44 students may be prescient (have knowledge of the future), ambitious, highly motivated intellectually or economically. The continuing graduates are probably responding to different combinations of options depending upon their occupational curriculum. It would be interesting to know what considerations operate for graduates of the different programs. Some curricula are absent from the list. It would be interesting to have a better understanding of the omissions, too.

Where did the OCC graduates continue their educations? (Please refer to page 6.)

Figure 4

Schools to Which OCC Graduates Went

Type of School	Graduate #	Graduate %
a. Public, in state		
Northeastern Illinois	190	43.4
Northern Illinois	85	19.4
Southern Illinois	32	7.3
Illinois State	21	4.8
Western Illinois	19	4.3
Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	18	4.1
Univ. of Illinois-- Chicago Circle	10	2.3
Sangamon State	3	.7
Eastern Illinois	2	.5
Triton (nursing)	1	.2
Total	381	87.0
b. Private, in state		
DePaul	6	1.4
Loyola	6	1.4
Roosevelt	6	1.4
Illinois Institute of Technology	3	.7
Mundelein	3	.7
National College of Education	3	.7
Northwestern	3	.7
Chicago Medical School (Univ. of Health Science)	2	.5
Bradley	1	.2
Carthage	1	.2
Elmhurst	1	.2
Monmouth	1	.2
Moody Bible Institute	1	.2
North Park College	1	.2
Total	38	8.7

Figure 4 (cont)

Schools to Which OCC Graduates Went

Type of School	Graduates #	%
c. Out of state universities and colleges		
*Arizona	1	.2
Grand Canyon College (Ariz.)	1	.2
*Arkansas	1	.2
*California, Berkeley	1	.2
*Colorado	2	.5
Eckerd College (FL)	1	.2
*Florida State	1	.2
*Notre Dame (IN)	1	.2
*Michigan State	1	.2
*Oakland (MI)	1	.2
Garland (MN)	1	.2
*New Mexico	1	.2
*Roberts (OK)	1	.2
*Drexel (PA)	1	.2
*Wisconsin: 1 @ Stout State,	3	.7
Madison, Milwaukee	3	.7
*Marquette (WI)	1	.2
Total	19	4.0
Grand Total	438**	99.2

*Designates universities
**Some graduates attended more than one other college or university.

Figure 4 indicates that the largest portion of OCC graduates attend public colleges and universities within the state. Almost half of them (N = 200, 45.7%) enroll in institutions to which they can commute: Northwestern, and Chicago Circle Campus. Another 2/5 attend 7 other universities within the state.

We found OCC graduates at 13 private colleges and universities in Illinois. These graduates (N = 38, 8.7%) again tended to be at institutions within commuting distance: DePaul, Loyola, Roosevelt, Mundelein, National College, Northwestern, Chicago Medical School, and Moody Bible Institute (N = 30, 6.8%); and stretching it a little: IIT, North Park, and Elmhurst (N =5, 1.0%). Only a few of those attending private colleges in Illinois (N = 7, 1.1%) were resident students.

OCC graduates, 19 of them (4.0%) ventured out of Illinois to continue their education. They went to schools in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Eighteen (18) different campuses were involved. In only one case did 2 OCC graduates attend the same out of state institution, the University of Colorado, but they may have been there at different times.

OCC graduates so far accounted for have been found continuing their postsecondary education at 42 different institutions. These institutions run the gamut from public state universities to private denominationally sponsored colleges. While the data are far from complete they indicate that OCC's graduates are equipped to cope with the variety of challenges offered by higher education in the United States.

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